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for the individual bright lines is greater than for the absorption lines, so that it is unlikely that the difference between the values (6 km/sec.) has any meaning.

In this connection it is of interest that King has produced with the electric furnace a continuous spectrum upon which are found bright H and K, $\lambda 4227$ as a strong absorption line, and the red components of the iron doublets $\lambda 4250$ and $\lambda 4271$ suppressed while the blue components show as absorption lines.

It is to be noted that η *Carinae* and *T Tauri* are both variable stars associated with nebulæ. *T Tauri*, however, gives a relatively strong continuous spectrum, quite in contrast with η *Carinae*, in which the continuous spectrum, if existent, is excessively weak.

Because of the greater dispersion of this plate, the larger number of lines considered, and the agreement between the velocities from absorption and from emission lines, the radial velocity here derived may be considered to supplant velocities derived with the small dispersion hitherto used. Similar plates will be necessary to determine the constancy or variability of this velocity.

R. F. SANFORD.

OBSERVATIONS OF BARNARD'S VARIABLE NEAR MESSIER 11

On Mr. Shapley's photographs of Messier 11 the following measures have been made of Barnard's variable No. 1 (*Pop. Ast.*, **27**, 485, 1919; *Ast. Jour.* **32**, 102, 1919). The observations in July, 1916, suggest a fairly rapid increase in brightness, but the material is not yet sufficient to estimate the length of period.

Date	Photographic		Photovisual		Color Index
	Magnitude	No. of Plates	Magnitude	No. of Plates	
June 6, 1915	>16.7	1	>14.9	1	.....
June 7, 1915	16.7	1	>14.7	1	.....
July 6, 1915	15.6	1	.....	..	.....
Aug. 12, 1915	16.8	1	14.5	1	+2.3
Aug. 16, 1915	16.8	1	14.6	1	+2.2
Sept. 7, 1915	...	..	>15.0	1	.....
Oct. 3, 1915	>16.7	1	.....	..	.....
July 5, 1916	15.9	2	13.3	2	+2.6
July 6, 1916	15.6	3	13.3	2	+2.3
July 8, 1916	15.0	1	13.1	1	+1.9
April 19, 1917	16.1	1	.....	..	.....
Aug. 14, 1917	15.2	2	.....	..	.....

Barnard's variable No. 2 does not appear on any of these plates, nor is it on the spectral plates made with the 100-inch telescope on September 14, 15, and October 1, 1919, which show stars as faint as 13.9, 15.6, and 15.6, respectively.

MARY RITCHIE.

NOTE ON THE PARALLAX OF CEPHEID VARIABLES

In his study of the distances of globular clusters (*Mt. Wilson Contribution*, No. 151) Shapley gives a table comparing the trigonometrically determined parallaxes of six Cepheid variables with values derived from the period-luminosity curve. A revision of the comparison is now possible since a few additions to the material are at hand, and, moreover, Miss Coral Wolfe and the writer have recently determined the systematic errors in the trigonometric parallaxes of different observers. The result of the study of the systematic errors will be published shortly in another place.

The following table gives in successive columns: the number of the star in Boss's *Preliminary General Catalogue*, the parallax observers, the absolute parallax with its probable error, the same values corrected for systematic error, and the parallax as derived by Shapley in *Mt. Wilson Contribution*, No. 153.

Boss Number	Observer	π abs.	p.e.	π Cor-rected	p.e.	π Shapley
325	Several	+0".028	± 0.015	+0".028	± 0.015	+0".016
637	van Maanen	+0 .010	5	+0 .009	5	+0 .004
1629	Miller, v. Maanen	+0 .026	15	+0 .022	12	+0 .004
1815	Abetti, Miller, Al- legany	+0 .013	6	+0 .006	4	+0 .004
5071	Mitchell	+0 .004	9	+0 .003	9	+0 .005
X Cygni	Miller	+0 .005	9	-0 .005	9	+0 .001
5532	Yerkes	-0 .011	9	-0 .006	9	+0 .018

The mean of the seven trigonometrical parallaxes is + 0".011. After the application of the systematic corrections this mean value reduces to + 0".008, in exact agreement with the value derived by Shapley from the period-luminosity curve. A. VAN MAANEN.

THE PARALLAX OF NOVA AQUILAE No. 3

In these PUBLICATIONS for August, 1919, Sanford and the writer published a preliminary parallax of *Nova Aquilae* No. 3; the result was partly based upon exposures taken on June 12, 1918, which showed images of the nova of 6" diameter, notwithstanding the fact that a double rotary sector had been used. Several better